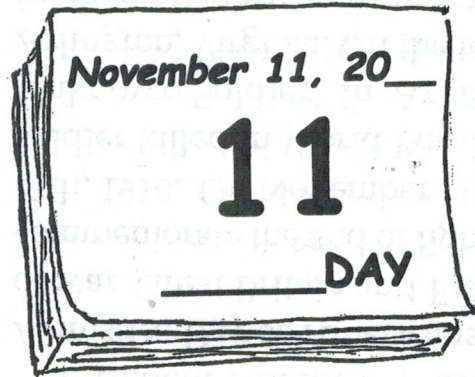
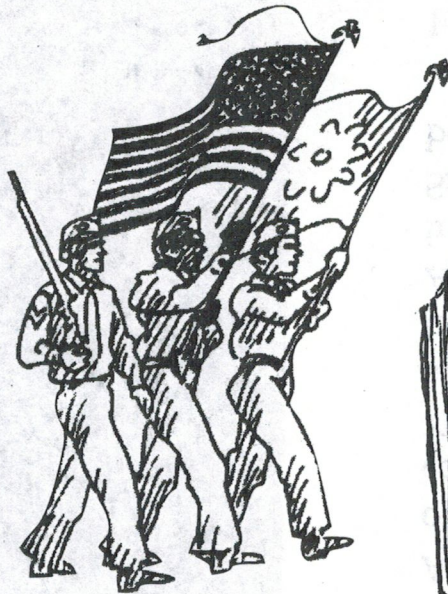


Veterans Day



Traditions and Customs

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th. It is a day to **remember** and **honor** all those Americans who served in the armed forces, and particularly those who fought during the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars. People also remember the soldiers who are **missing** in action (MIA). This day reminds people of the **courage** and patriotism of all men and women who serve their country.

Veterans Day is **observed** with **ceremonies** at war **monuments** and cemeteries throughout the nation. Almost every village has a monument to veterans who served in one of the country's wars.

It is a day when many people visit national monuments such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the Marine Corps Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Veterans groups organize barbecues, picnics, and dances. Store sales are very popular on this holiday.



Background

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11th as Armistice Day so Americans would not forget the tragedies of war. Great Britain and France also celebrate this day to commemorate the end of fighting of World War I on November 11th, 1918. On November 11th, 1921, the body of an American soldier killed in World War I was **buried** in the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. On the tomb are these words: "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." Since then, unknown soldiers from more recent wars have also been buried at the tomb, now called the Tomb of the Unknowns.

A law **enacted** in 1938 made the day a federal holiday. In 1954 Congress changed the name to Veterans Day to honor all United States veterans. It is also a day **dedicated** to world peace.

Exercises (ANSWERS ON PAGE 167)

I. Match words or phrases of similar meanings.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--|
| 1. to remember | _____ | a. no fear; valor; bravery |
| 2. to enact | _____ | b. to celebrate |
| 3. courage | _____ | c. to place a dead person in a grave |
| 4. missing | _____ | d. to think of somebody or something; to be reminded |
| 5. to observe a holiday | _____ | e. to make official or legal |
| 6. to bury | _____ | f. a formal occasion or service |
| 7. to be dedicated | _____ | g. a memorial statue or structure |
| 8. to honor | _____ | h. to have a single purpose |
| 9. monument | _____ | i. to give respect |
| 10. ceremony | _____ | j. lost, absent |

II. Circle the word or phrase that does not belong

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. remember | remind | forget | recall |
| 2. lost | absent | missing | found |
| 3. hide | bury | show | cover up |
| 4. establish | approve | deny | enact |
| 5. insult | honor | respect | love |
| 6. valor | bravery | fear | courage |
| 7. observe | forget | celebrate | commemorate |
| 8. ceremony | campaign | rite | event |
| 9. work for | be dedicated | care | trick |
| 10. ceremony | monument | structure | statue |

III. Circle the word that best completes the sentence.

1. On Veterans Day, Americans (remember, bury, observe) veterans who served in the Armed forces.
2. There is a (monument, observation) honoring Civil War Veterans in the park.
3. People who fight for their country have (service, work, courage); they are not afraid.
4. After the war, many soldiers could not be found; they are (buried, dedicated, missing).

HERE RESTS IN
HONORED GLORY
AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER
KNOWN BUT
TO GOD

-Arlington Cemetery



5. Laying the wreath on the tomb was part of a very solemn (observation, honor, ceremony).
6. Veterans Day is (honored, named, observed) on November 11th in the United States.
7. The bodies of unknown American soldiers are (named, buried, dedicated) in the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington.
8. Many people all over the world are (named, celebrated, dedicated) to peace.
9. On Veterans Day, the United States (honors, buries, misses) Americans who served and fought for their country.
10. Veterans Day was established as a federal holiday by a law (enacted, named, observed) in 1938.

IV. Complete the sentences.

1. On Veterans Day, people also think about soldiers who did not come back or who could not be found.

These are called soldiers _____ in action.

2. An American soldier's body was placed in the Tomb of the Unknowns.

He was _____ in the tomb.

3. In 1938, Congress decided by law to observe Veterans Day on November 11th.

They _____ the law.

4. Veterans Day is a day to think about people who served their country.

It is a day to _____ them.

5. On this day, people remember that men and women serving their country are brave.

They have _____.

6. Many people cried at the service.

It was a sad and moving _____.

7. Veterans Day is celebrated with religious services, public ceremonies, and other events.

It is _____ in many different ways.

8. Many organizations are working for peace in the world.

They are _____ to world peace.

9. We had our picture taken at the base of the new statue.

It is our newest national _____.

10. Most Americans give respect and thanks to those who serve the country.

They _____ them.

V. Complete these sentences.

1. Sometimes it is hard to _____ family birthdays.
Many people write them in a book so they won't forget.
2. Sonia could not find her keys; they were _____.
3. Dogs like to _____ bones in the ground.
4. Some famous singers and artists work very hard for needy people.
They are _____ to helping others.
5. People who climb mountains have no fear; they have a lot of _____.
6. Before a law can be _____, Congress has to vote on it.
7. To _____ your parents, you must show respect and love.
8. Most people in the United States _____ the end of the old year and the start of the new with a party.
9. The _____ was very short – only fifteen minutes.



10. From the top of the Washington _____ you can see the whole city.

VI. Use these phrases in a sentence.

Example: are remembered > Veterans are remembered on Veterans Day.

1. was enacted >

_____.

2. is observed >

_____.

3. are buried >

_____.

4. are dedicated >

_____.

5. are honored >

_____.

6. a quiet ceremony >

_____.

7. missing in action >

_____.

8. They served >

_____.

9. a courageous person >

_____.

VII. Use the Internet to find out more about Veterans Day.

1. Read about the history of Veterans Day.

http://www.patriotism.org/veterans_day/

2. Find the section about Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

<http://www1.va.gov/pubaff/celebAm/vetday.htm>